

This year I have received an unusual number of reports of late specimens of other species with overwintering larvae that are normally univoltine, which may indicate that partial second generations occurred in the wild. These include the Small Emerald, *Hemistola chrysoprasaria*, 24th September, in Wiltshire, Lilac Beauty, *Apeira syringaria* 27th August and 5th September also in Wiltshire and Goldtail, *Euproctis similis* — several specimens, one as late as 26th October, in North Hampshire. Equally unusual was a report of a full-grown Garden Tiger moth caterpillar, *Arctia caja* in Essex on 1st October (J. Young. pers. comm.)

The five hundred Essex Emerald larvae now in captivity are being kept in similar conditions to those in the winters of 1987/88 and 1988/89 but some are now in Essex rather than Peterborough.

#### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my colleague Roger Key for looking after the livestock for the fortnight of my annual leave.

#### References

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#### *Epiphyas postvittana* (Walk.) (Lep.: Tortricidae) in Leicestershire

I read with interest Ted Hancock's account of *Epiphyas postvittana* in Wales (*Ent. Rec.* **101**: 277). A single specimen of this moth was caught at my light in a garden in Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire (OS ref. SK 521 037) in September 1989. The moth was positively identified by Mr R. Barnett, Assistant Curator at the City Museum Bristol.

As far as I can determine, this is the northernmost record for *postvittana* in Great Britain. The moth was a very well marked male, apparently newly emerged. I would like to know of any further records of *postvittana* in Leicestershire so it may be established whether or not the species is breeding in the county.— JANE MCPHAIL, 7 Station Close, Kirby Muxloe, Leics LE9 9ES.

#### Oak Eggar moth — Highflyer or upwardly mobile climber?

Whilst high-pruning branches from a Norway maple in my garden here on 1st November I found a first-year larva of the Oak Eggar lying along a branch well out into the tree crown at a height of sixteen feet from the ground (or as our Eurolepidopterists might have it 4.87 metres). It is not

uncommon to find overwintered larvae of the moth on ivy foliage well up on hedgerow trees and bushes but this maple was a young tree with a totally clean trunk and free of adjoining foliage.

So was its egg laid there or did the larva ascend? The implications could be profound for those amongst us who research into the fundamental behaviour of our Lepidoptera. Perish the thought that *L. quercus* is emulating *H. sapiens* in the belief that, next to being high-born, success in life is gained through travelling ever upwards.— G.M. HAGGETT, Meadows End, Northacre, Caston, Norfolk NR17 1DG.

### **Unusual abundance of the Holly Blue, *Celastrina argiolus* L. (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in 1989 in parts of Sussex**

Kenneth Smith in North London was not alone in noting the unusual flight period and large numbers of Holly Blues in the summer of 1989 (*Ent. Rec.* **101**: 278).

For several years I have been trying to get good close-up slides of these lively little butterflies. This has usually involved hanging about near the post box close to my home where there is a mass of holly and ivy in an overgrown garden; in April - early May and August, one or two butterflies may, with luck, be seen dashing about at breakneck speed. However, in 1989 I did not see any here until 20th May.

So when I went to woods below the downs near West Dean, Chichester, on 12th and 14th July 1989 to photograph other species, I was most surprised to see Holly Blues in almost every thicket and on most wet patches in the road. On 21st July, I went to Willingdon Point, Eastbourne, to photograph Chalkhill and Common Blues, but again Holly Blues were more numerous than either, albeit in the thickets rather than in the open. My last sighting here in Selsey was on 4th October 1989.

These unusually high populations are interesting in view of the very low numbers of sightings countrywide between 1986 and 1988 (Pollard E. & Hall M.L. Butterfly monitoring in 1988. *Entomologist* **108**: 229-242).— R.C. DENING, 20 Vincent Road, Selsey PO20 9DQ.

### **Return of the White-letter Hairstreak**

At approximately 17.00 hours on 16th July, I noticed a single male specimen of *Satyrrium w-album* Knoch, the White-letter Hairstreak, feeding on Buddleia in my back garden. There are still a relatively small number of elm trees in the neighbourhood but it is the first time for over 20 years that I have noticed this particular butterfly in the locality. In the late 1950s and early 1960s it used to be quite common in a locality in Banstead, Surrey, approximately three miles from where I live, but the habitat in question was totally destroyed following redevelopment of what was originally Ministry of Defence surplus land.— M.S. HARVEY, Highfields House, Highfields, Ashstead, Surrey.